

out their differences^ became the head of one of those parties, diplomatic correspondence of every kind, for these particular years, is a source of much greater value than usual. It is well therefore to state roughly what the archives of different countries yielded.

Take France first. Barillon was ambassador from France throughout the whole reign of James II. As we have seen, Macaulay had in the Fox and Mackintosh collections copies of most of his letters and supplemented them by getting transcripts of others from the French Foreign Office. The despatches of Bonrepaux, an envoy employed in special missions in 1686 and 1688, he obtained in the same way. Then came the Revolution and the war with France. Diplomatic relations between England and France ceased, but since Louis recognised James II as the only lawful sovereign of England he sent an ambassador with James to Ireland, and the result was a series of letters which are of the greatest value to historians of the period.

The Count of Avaux was one of the ablest of the many able diplomatists in the service of Louis XIV. Macaulay devotes to him one of the full-length portraits in which he delights.¹ The Negotiations d'Avaux, published in 1754, is full of information on the history of the struggle between the Prince of Orange and his great antagonist, and

relates to the years 1679 to 1688, when Avaux was French ambassador at The Hague. Macaulay makes copious use of them, and states that the sagacity of Avaux detected all the plans of William, and in vain recommended a policy which would probably have frustrated them.² Avaux accompanied James to Ireland, and his letters hence during 1689 and 1690 are among Macaulay's chief sources for Irish history, especially for military events.³ Some addi-

¹ III, 1462-4 (xii).

² III, 1462.

³ See below, p. 216.